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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/966,663	09/28/2001	Anthony J. Baerlocher	0112300-455	5250

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BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC
P. O. BOX 1135
CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135

EXAMINER

RADA, ALEX P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3714

DATE MAILED: 11/12/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/966,663

Applicant(s)

BAERLOCHER ET AL.

Examiner

Alex P. Rada

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 March 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the cross-reference to related applications do not contain serial numbers. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Barrie (GB)
'644.
4. Barrie discloses; a processor, a plurality of selection, a plurality of awards associated with the selection, at least one supplementing award adapted to be provided to a player by the processor, and each supplementing award including an award ant at least one additional award generation as recited in claims 1, 13, 19, 21, and 25; the selection are player selectable as recited in claims 2 and 15; at least one database of the awards and the supplementing awards accessible by the processor as recited in claim 3; a plurality of databases accessible by the processor having a number of awards and at least one supplementing award as recited in claim 4; each award generation provides a number of game credits or game credit multiplier as recited in claims 5 and 16; the award generation includes a randomly generated award and a predetermined award or a number of free games or additional selection as recited in claims 6-7, 17 and 22-24; the selection

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is one of the plurality of selections not previously selected as recited in claim 8; the award generation yields another supplementing award as recited in claim 9; the another supplementing award is associated with one of the of selection not previously selected as recited in claim 10; a plurality of supplementing awards are displayed on an electromechanical deice controlled by the processor as recited in claim 11; the supplementing award limit defining a maximum number of supplementing awards associated with the selection as recited in claim 12; the processor randomly generates an award from among the plurality of awards as recited in claim 14; the storage means storing a plurality of groups of awards and supplementing awards as recited in claim 18; the award generation chooses from remaining unselected awards of the plurality of awards as recited in claim 20;

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Hughs '995 discloses a gaming device having a bonus round with multiple selection groups.

Mayeroff '483 discloses a slot machine having multi-reel paylines mechanical reel or a video reel slot arrangement with at lest five reels and five or more paylines.

Feola '156 discloses a card game having multiple rounds in which a player chooses which round to play and number of location on a displayed grid or hidden randomly selected cards.

Bennett `798 and `102 discloses a slot machine having prize display on a video screen controlled to display a game image divide in to a matrix of element s or player selectable zones.

Vancura `289 and `307 discloses a bonus game in a secondary slot machine adjacent a primary slot machine.

Cooper `129 discloses an electronic video poker game machine having and initial five-card hand dealt and displayed to a player.

Bansal `338 discloses a method and apparatus for rewarding communication service user can enter a call in to a lottery if the call is eligible.

Wilson `207 discloses a spinning reel slot machine, which gives a multiplied payout when certain conditions are fulfilled.

Baerlocher `573 discloses a computer implemented electronic game having a wheel of fortune game with odds of a jackpot greatly in excess of the number of indicia on a simulated wheel.

Nannicola `524 discloses a seal card game, which include a set of individual play cards, each having symbol combination printed thereon and concealed under break-open windows.

Fienberg `737 discloses a lottery-type game system providing multiple levels of play including a plurality of playing cards and a master game card used in conjunction therewith.

Nemeth `515 disclose a mathematical game board implemented electronically for use in a variety of game having elements of chance and skill

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alex P. Rada whose telephone number is 703-308-7135. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 08:00-16:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Hughes can be reached on 703-308-1806. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9302 for regular communications and 703-872-9303 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1148.

ASR
apr
November 6, 2002

Tom Hughes
SPE, AU 3714